

Even sharp pruning may make us yield richer clusters of spiritual fruit, if we will let God have his way. And when the discipline and conflicts of this earthly school life are ended, we look upward, and see that "our names are written in heaven."

All these joys our loving God provides for us, and offers them to us. We cannot create canary birds; but we can provide cages for them, and fill our rooms with their music. Even so we cannot create the rich gifts which Jesus offers; but they are ours if we furnish heart room for them.

Now, with all these pure and substantial joys within our reach, it is a sin and shame for a genuine Christian to be wretched. Is not disobedience to God a sin? He commands us to rejoice. No duty is more clear. "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!" "The joy of the Lord is your strength." You can fill your soul with inspiring thoughts, and with memories of mercies; you can occupy your soul with plans of doing good to others and with acts of obedience to the inward voice of Christ, such as will kindle your soul into a glow. A noble woman of my acquaintance makes rainbows on the cloud of her widowhood by ministrations of mercy to the poor and the destitute.

There is a "godly sorrow" over our shortcomings, and over the woes and wrongs of others, that every Christian ought to feel; but such sorrow must never be allowed to drown out the deep abounding joy of the Lord down in the very core of our souls. There is a gulf stream of God-given joy that ought to send its warm current thru the wintriest waves of trials and adversities.

The coal beds are solidified sunshine. The love of Jesus streaming down into your soul makes the central heat; that heat generates spiritual power. So doth the joy of Jesus become your perennial strength. A doubting, ague-smitten Christian cannot do much but shake. A backsliding Christian is on his road to a cell in the castle of Giant Despair. But "he who is nearest to Christ is near at to the fire," and the contact keeps the heart aglow. Why not rejoice more? Count up your golden mercies, count up your opportunities to do good, count up your exceeding great and precious promises, count up your joys of heirship to an incorruptible inheritance, and then march on the road heavenward shouting!

You cannot find a hovel so miserable, the circumstances and the prospects of life so wretched, that it is not a bright and glorious thing for a child to be born there. Hope flickers up for an instant from its embers at the first breathing of the baby's breath. And so there was nothing that could with such vividness represent the newness of Christianity in the world as to have it forever associated with the birth of a child. And there is nothing that could so set forth the illumination of all life for him who has accepted a personal Lord, as to associate it all forever with the birth of a child.—Phillips Brooks.

## God's Time for Revival is Our Time

BISHOP MERRILL

It is true that we must wait for God's time for the revival, and can not force it before the time. But is it not also true that his time is when the church is ready for it? There is nothing fluctuating or spasmodic in God's thought or feeling toward the church or toward sinners, and if he delights in the return of the wayward, he is always ready to hear prayer and welcome the penitent. There are no intermissions in the intercessions of the great High Priest of our salvation, and never is there a moment when the Spirit of the Lord is slow to help human infirmities or to meet the urgencies of individual need.

The readiness of the church is the only problem. That is something more than a willingness that souls should be saved. It requires life, energy, activity, and vehement desire. The revival begins in the church. This saying has become proverbial, and so positively is it true that an exception is not supposable. The signs of the revival in the church are easily discerned by the spiritually minded, and especially will the vigilant pastor discover them in the more general attendance upon the means of grace, in the higher tone of devotional services, in the greater relish for the word of God, in enlarged freedom in religious conversation, and in the prompt responses to calls for individual work. He who himself walks with God will know assuredly that, with these indications, the set time to favor Zion is at hand, and the Spirit within will arouse him to appropriate action, and lead to the employment of such instrumentalities as may be available, for the Lord can save by few or by many, by the weak or by the strong, if only faith be mighty and consecration complete.—Northwestern Advocate

## Missions

### Report of the Chicago Church Transaction

Purchase price of property,	\$6000 00
Repairs, improvements, putting in pool, etc,	280 86
Four months interest on \$5700 at 5 per cent,	95 00
Increased premium on insurance,	75 00
Transfer expenses, including title, deeds, fees, etc,	94 25
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	\$6545 11
Mortgage loan,	\$3500 00
Contributions to date,	1810 87
Temporary loans,	1234 24
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	\$6545 11

The brethren and friends will observe from the above report that there are temporary loans to the amount of twelve hundred and thirty-four dollars and twenty-four cents to be repaid to the brethren that kindly came to the rescue of the executive officers of the missionary board at the time of their extremity.

It will be necessary for the pastors and brethren to re-open the canvass for funds all along the line so that we may be able to redeem the promises made to the brethren that came to our assistance.

The thanks of the board are due to Bartlett & Watson, the real estate agents, for refunding us the commission of twenty-five dollars due them for securing the loan of thirty-five hundred dollars. Also to brethren Samuel Lichty, S. B. Bickley, H. M. Saylor, Dr. E. J. Worst, and C. Rowland for temporarily furnishing us the needed cash to meet the obligations of the board according to previous arrangements, especially to Brother Rowland who took the pains to go to Chicago on settlement day and under the emergency drew his personal check for nearly eight hundred dollars.

JACOB C. CASSEL, Sec.

### Report of the Chicago Church Fund to Feb. 1, '02

Amount previously reported,	\$1660 76
Simon Oakes, Trotwood, O.,	1 00
Ira D. Slotter, Ashland, O.,	5 00
N. C. Nielsen, Herington, Kan.,	1 00

Ralph Lydick,	Fairview, Ind.,	25
Daisy Lydick,	"	25
Ira Carpenter,	"	25
Fred Feasenhizer,	"	50
John B. Fields,	"	50
Robert Chamberlain,	"	50
Aaron Witter,	"	50
Jacob Miller,	"	50
S. F. Dunn,	"	50
Charlie Mikesell,	"	50
Stephen Osborn,	"	50
Mrs. Jane Lydick,	"	50
Daniel Fisher,	"	75
Jos. Augustine,	"	1 00
Wm. McDonald,	"	1 00
Irvin Lydick,	"	1 00
J. H. Lydick,	"	1 00
George Fisher,	"	1 00
Walter Fields,	"	1 00
Mrs. P. C. Fields,	"	1 00
Mrs. Mary Carpenter,	"	1 00
Mrs. Mahala McDonald,	"	1 00
Mrs. Millie Augustine,	"	1 00
Mrs. Olive Witter,	"	1 00
Mrs. Loa Witter,	"	1 00
Mrs. Alma Cisne,	"	1 00
John D. Cisne,	"	3 00
Alma Hardman,	"	5 00
Mrs. Alice Augustine,	"	5 00
Mrs. Mary O. Miller,	"	8 00
David Augustine,	"	25 00
National S. S. C. E.	"	3 00
Brethren church, Lanark, Ill.		75 11
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		\$1810 87

This report shows that some one in the Fairview church, Indiana, did the work that ought to have been done in every church.

JACOB CASSEL, Sec.

### Report of Pennsylvania Mission Board

Received during January:

Altoona church,	\$5 00
McKee church,	3 25
J. H. Knepper, (Conference pledges)	12 00
M. A. Barr and wife, Purchase Line,	1 00
Elk Lick church per L. A. Hazlett,	8 00